

# **Snapper Grouper Amendment 9 Attachment**

**The following 4 pages contain a list of management actions and options under consideration for Amendment 9 to the Snapper Grouper Fishery Management Plan.**

**The council has scheduled public hearings for these actions from June 17-July 2, 1997. For a more comprehensive summary of these actions, please contact the council office at 803-571-4366, or e-mail your request to: [susan.buchanan@noaa.gov](mailto:susan.buchanan@noaa.gov).**

**If you are unable to attend any of the hearings, you may send written comments by July 11, 1997 to:**

**Robert K. Mahood  
One Southpark Circle, Suite 306  
Charleston, SC 29407-4699**



# **South Atlantic Fishery Management Council's Snapper Grouper Amendment 9 Public Hearing Schedule:**

**All hearings are scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m., and will end when all business is complete.**

**Council staff members will be available at the hearing locations from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. to answer questions from the public pertaining to Amendment 9.**

**June 17, 1997 (Tuesday)**

Pier House Resort  
One Duval Street  
Key West, FL 33040  
telephone: 305-296-4600;  
1-800-327-8340

**June 24, 1997 (Tuesday)**

Comfort Inn  
5308 New Jesup Hwy  
Brunswick, GA 31525  
telephone: 912-264-6540

**June 25, 1997 (Wednesday)**

Ramada Inn Daytona Speedway  
1798 W International Speedway Blvd.  
Daytona Beach FL 32114  
telephone: 904-255-2422

**June 26, 1997 (Thursday)**

Holiday Inn On The Oceanfront  
1350 S Ocean Blvd  
Pompano Beach, FL 33062  
telephone: 954-941-7300

**June 30, 1997 (Monday)**

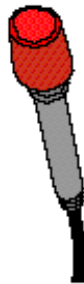
Sheraton Atlantic Beach  
Salter Path Road Road  
Atlantic Beach, NC 28512  
telephone: 919-240-1155

**July 1, 1997 (Tuesday)**

Holiday Inn Wilmington  
4903 Market Street  
Wilmington, NC 28405  
telephone: 910-799-1440

**July 2, 1997 (Wednesday)**

Town & Country Inn  
2008 Savannah Hwy  
Charleston, SC 29407  
telephone: 803-571-1000



# Snapper Grouper Amendment 9

List of Actions and Other Possible Options for these Actions from the public hearing draft. The numbering in front of each ACTION refers to the appropriate section in the public hearing draft of Amendment 9 and the public hearing summary.

## **4.2.1 ACTION 1. Increase the red porgy minimum size limit from 12" TL to 13" TL for both recreational and commercial fishermen, and establish a recreational bag limit of 2.**

### **Other Possible Options for Action 1:**

**Option 1.** No Action. Maintain the existing 12" TL recreational and commercial size limits.

**Option 2.** Increase the red porgy minimum size limit from 12" TL to 14" TL for both recreational and commercial fishermen, and establish a recreational bag limit of 2.

**Option 3.** Increase the red porgy minimum size limit from 12" TL to 13" TL for both recreational and commercial fishermen, and establish a recreational bag limit of 5.

## **4.2.2 ACTION 2. Increase the black sea bass minimum size limit from 8" TL to 10" TL for both recreational and commercial fishermen, and establish a recreational bag limit of 20.**

### **Other Possible Options for Action 2:**

**Option 1.** No Action. Maintain the existing 8" TL minimum size limit for both recreational and commercial fishermen, and no bag limit.

## **4.2.3 ACTION 3. Require escape vents and escape panels with degradable fasteners in black sea bass pots.**

Black sea bass pots would be required to have a minimum unobstructed escape vent opening of 1" x 5" for rectangular vents, 1.75" x 1.75" for square vents, or 1.75" diameter for circular vents. Also, require a minimum of 2 vents per black sea bass pot, and specify the escape vents must be located on opposite sides of the pot.

A black sea bass pot that is used or possessed in the South Atlantic EEZ north of 28° 35.1' N. latitude is required to have on at least one side, excluding top or bottom, a panel or door with an opening equal to or larger than the interior end of the trap's throat (funnel). The hinges and fasteners of each panel or door must be made of the following degradable material: ungalvanized or uncoated wire no larger than 19 gauge or 0.041 inches diameter.

### **Other Possible Options for Action 3:**

**Option 1.** No Action. Maintain the existing mesh and escape panel regulations.

**Option 2.** Require escape vents and escape panels with degradable fasteners in black sea bass pots with the following sizes:

Black sea bass pots would be required to have a minimum escape vent ranging in size from 1" - 1.75" x 5" - 6" or 1.75" - 2" x 2" for rectangular vents or 1.75" - 2.5" diameter for ring vents. Also, require a range of 1 to 4 vents on black sea bass pots.

A black sea bass pot that is used or possessed in the South Atlantic EEZ north of 28° 35.1' N. latitude is required to have on at least one side, excluding top or bottom, a panel or door with an opening equal to or larger than the interior end of the trap's throat (funnel). The hinges and fasteners of each panel or door must be made of the following degradable material: ungalvanized or uncoated wire no larger than 19 gauge or 0.041 inches diameter.

**Option 3.** Require escape vents and escape panels with degradable fasteners in black sea bass pots with the following sizes to directly track proposed wording by the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council:

Black sea bass pots and traps would be required to have a minimum escape vent of 1 1/8" x 5 3/4" or 2.0" in diameter or 1.5" square (inside measure). Vents would be required to be placed in a lower corner of the parlor portion of the pot or trap. Pots or traps constructed with wooden lathes would be required to have the spacing between one set of lathes in the parlor portion of the trap 1 1/8" or greater.

Black sea bass pots and traps would be required to have hinges and fasteners on one panel or door made of one of the following degradable materials: (a) untreated hemp, jute, or cotton string of 3/16" (4.8 mm) diameter or smaller; (b) magnesium alloy, timed float releases (pop-up devices) or similar magnesium alloy fasteners; or (c) ungalvanized or uncoated iron wire of 0.094" (2.4 mm) diameter or smaller.

**4.2.4 ACTION 4. Establish measures for greater amberjack that will: prohibit all harvest in excess of the bag limit throughout the EEZ during April and May; prohibit sale during April and May; reduce the recreational bag limit from 3 to 1 greater amberjack per person per day; and prohibit coring.**

**Other Possible Options for Action 4:**

**Option 1.** No Action. Maintain the existing minimum size limits, 3-fish bag limit, and limits during April.

**Option 2.** Prohibit any retention during April.

**Option 3.** Prohibit all harvest above the bag limit and all sale, during April and May in the EEZ off Florida.

**Option 4.** Reduce the amberjack bag limit to 1 and change the recreational size limit to 20" FL for all *Seriola* species.

**Option 5.** Establish measures for greater amberjack that will: extend the April closure throughout the EEZ and prohibit sale during April; reduce the recreational bag limit to 1 fish per person per day; implement a commercial quota to reduce landings by 21% based on average landings 1986-1995 and implement a trip limit of 500 to 1,000 pounds; change the start of the fishing year from January 1 to July 1; and prohibit coring.

**4.2.5 ACTION 5. Increase the recreational vermilion snapper minimum size limit from 10" to 12" TL.**

**Other Possible Options for Action 5:**

**Option 1.** No Action. Maintain the existing 10-fish bag limit and 10" TL recreational and 12" TL commercial size limits.

**Option 2.** Increase the minimum size limit to 14" TL for both recreational and commercial fisheries and no bag limit or quota.

**Option 3.** Implement an annual vermilion snapper commercial quota of 600,000 pounds, a recreational bag limit of 5 fish, and a recreational minimum size limit of 12" TL.

**4.2.6 ACTION 6. Increase the gag minimum size limit from 20" TL to 24" TL for both recreational and commercial fishermen, and prohibit all harvest January through March.**

**Other Possible Options for Action 6:**

**Option 1.** No Action. Maintain the existing 20" TL size limit and 5 grouper aggregate bag limit remain in effect.

**Option 2.** Prohibit harvest of gag in excess of the 5-grouper aggregate bag limit (excluding Nassau grouper, jewfish, speckled hind and warsaw grouper) January through March and prohibit sale January through March.

**Option 3.** Prohibit sale and establish a possession limit of 1 gag per person per day January through March.

**Option 4.** Establish a 100 – 1,000 pound trip limit January - March.

**Option 5.** Establish a seasonal closure to achieve a 30% - 40% reduction in total landings.

**Option 6.** Establish a quota to achieve a 31% reduction based on average landings from 1986-95.

**4.2.7 ACTION 7. Increase the black grouper minimum size limit from 20" TL to 24" TL for both recreational and commercial fishermen.**

**Other Possible Options for Action 7:**

**Option 1.** No Action. Maintain the existing 20" TL size limits.

**4.2.8 ACTION 8. Specify that within the 5-fish aggregate grouper bag limit (which currently includes tilefish and excludes jewfish and Nassau grouper), no more than 2 may be gag grouper or black grouper.**

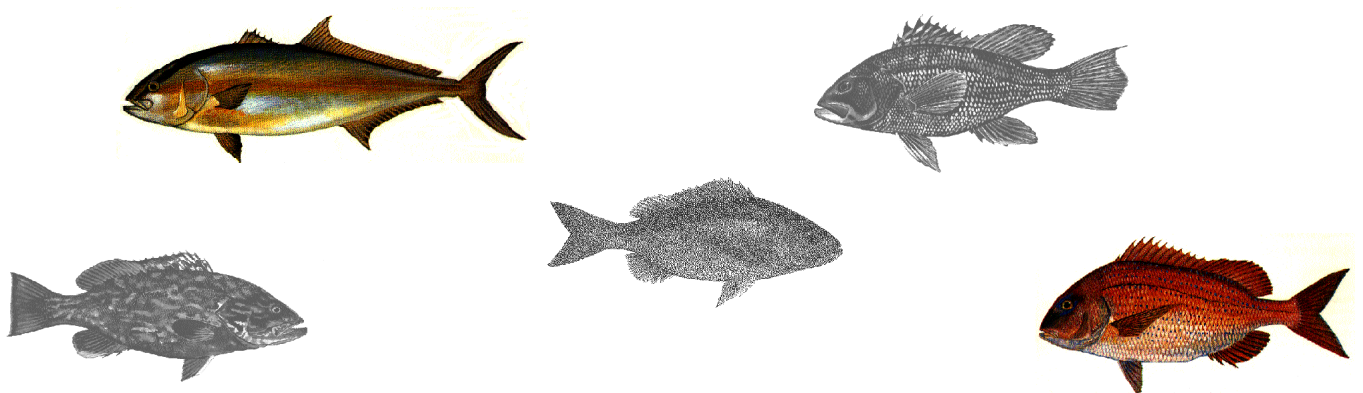
**Other Possible Options for Action 8:**

**Option 1.** No Action. Maintain the existing 5-fish aggregate grouper bag limit.

**4.2.9 ACTION 9. Establish an aggregate recreational bag limit of 20 fish inclusive of all snapper grouper species currently not under a bag limit.**

**Other Possible Options for Action 9:**

**Option 1.** No Action. There is currently no aggregate bag limit for species currently not under a bag limit.



**4.2.10 ACTION 10. Specify that vessels with bottom longline gear aboard may only possess snowy grouper, warsaw grouper, yellowedge grouper, misty grouper, golden tilefish, blueline tilefish, and sand tilefish.**

Definitions of Bottom Longline: (1) A type of fishing gear consisting of a main line that exceeds one nautical mile in length, is suspended horizontally in the water column either anchored, floating, or attached to a vessel, and from which branch dropper lines with more than 10 hooks are attached; OR (2) A type of fishing gear consisting of a main line of any length that is suspended horizontally in the water column either anchored, or not, or attached to a vessel, and from which branch dropper lines with more than 10 hooks are attached; OR (3) A stationary, buoyed, and anchored groundline with hooks attached. The Council is requesting input on an appropriate definition of a bottom longline.

The Council's intent is that shark longline vessels would be subject to this measure.

**Other Possible Options for Action 10:**

**Option 1.** No Action. Maintain the existing allowance of bottom longline gear in waters deeper than 50 fathoms, only North of St. Lucie Inlet, FL, and only for species other than wreckfish.

**4.2.11 ACTION 11. Alternative Measures to Reduce Fishing Mortality.**

The Council is also evaluating use of one or more of the following measures in addition to the previous species specific actions to reduce fishing mortality. The Council has no preferred management option and has included a suite of options to receive public comment. The Council will review comments received during the public comment period and determine what action, if any, to take.

**4.2.12.1 Option 1.** No Action. No additional measures to reduce fishing mortality.

**4.2.12.2 Option 2.** Establish a variable 3-month closure of the EEZ for all temperate mid-shelf species (TEMS= red porgy, vermilion snapper, red snapper, speckled hind, gag, scamp, red grouper, gray triggerfish, white grunt, and black grouper; black sea bass may or may not be included) in the snapper grouper management unit by allowing snapper grouper permit holders to individually choose which 9 calendar months their permit would be effective.

Marks on vessels are one possible means of identifying vessels which can be fishing in certain months.

**4.2.12.3 Option 3.** Establish an aggregate temperate mid-shelf species (TEMS= red porgy, vermilion snapper, red snapper, speckled hind, gag, scamp, red grouper, gray triggerfish, white grunt, and black grouper; black sea bass may or may not be included) quota at 75% of the 1993-1995 average (with and without black sea bass), establish a 2,000 pound trip limit, begin the fishing year on April 1 and close the month of February.

**4.2.12.4 Option 4.** Establish a black sea bass quota at 75% of the 1993-1995 average landings.

**4.2.12.5 Option 5.** Establish by framework closed seasons to achieve reductions in TEMS species (with and without black sea bass) of not less than 25% of the 1993-1995 average landings.